APPLE COMICS

Robert Asprin and Ken & Beth Mitchroney

WARP GRAPHICS

Myth Conceptions

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Do you believe in magik?

Our Story So Far . . .

In the dimension of Klaah, young Skeeve became apprentice to the wizard Garkin. One day, Garkin transported a fellow magician from the dimension of Perv, the "demon" Aahz, to Klaah. As a prank, Garkin put a spell on Aahz that removed his powers. But before Garkin could remove the spell, he was murdered.

As Skeeve was now without a teacher and Aahz was now without his powers (even though he retained all his knowledge of magik), they resolved that Skeeve would become Aahz's apprentice and together they would track down Isstvan, the magician behind Garkin's murder.

Along the way they enlisted the aid of the dull-witted demon hunter, Quigley, and visited Deva, site of an interdimensional bazaar, where they met Tananda, the beautiful assassin/magician. It was also at Deva that Skeeve adopted his pet dragon, Gleep (or was it the other way around?).

After routing Isstvan and bidding their comrades farewell, Aahz and Skeeve took over the maniac magician's former base of operations, an old country inn, to continue Skeeve's education. But Aahz's greed got in the way and after two successive get-rich-quick schemes backfired, they found themselves poorer than ever, with the inn on the verge of bankruptcy.

Things began looking up, however, when Skeeve was summoned to the court of King Rodrick the Fifth of Possiltum to apply for the post of court magician. While Skeeve was reluctant, Aahz was ecstatic over the possibilities for graft in such a position. During their journey to Possiltum, they decided Aahz would pose as Skeeve's apprentice while he tried to teach Skeeve how to behave in order to evoke the proper awe and respect due a powerful sorcerer.

Finally, as they arrived at the front gate to the castle, Skeeve cast a disguise spell on himself and Aahz — just as they were challenged by the guard . . .

Myth Conceptions™

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We're Off to Be the WIZARD!

ADAPTED BY BETH & KEN MITCHRONEY
ART BY KEN MITCHRONEY
LETTERER THOMAS SCOTT ~ EDITOR RICHARD PINI

SKEEVE THE MAGNIFICENT HAG *ARRIVED!* AND I--

I DON'T CARE! YOU CAN'T--

VLORP!

SHOONK!

I AM SKEEVE!!

AND THIS IS *MY ASSISTANT* YOU ARE ATTEMPTING TO THREATEN WITH YOUR *FEEBLE* WEAPON!

WE HAVE COME IN RESPONSE TO AN INVITATION FROM *RODRICK THE FIFTH, KING OF POSSILTUM!*

THAT'S *RIGHT*, BOSCO! NOW JUST RUN ALONG LIKE A GOOD FELLOW AND PASS THE WORD WE'RE *HERE*... EH?

A *MAGICIAN*, EH? FOR THAT I'VE GOT *STANDING* ORDERS!

GO AROUND TO THE BACK WHERE THE *OTHERS* ARE!!

TO THE *BACK*? YOU *DARE* TO SUGGEST A *MAGICIAN* OF MY MASTER'S *STATURE* GO TO THE BACK DOOR LIKE A *COMMON SERVANT*?

IF IT WERE UP TO *ME*, I'D *"DARE TO SUGGEST"* A FAR LESS PLEASANT ACTIVITY FOR YOU. AS IT IS, I HAVE MY ORDERS. YOU'RE TO GO AROUND TO THE BACK LIKE ALL THE OTHERS.

"OTHERS?"

THAT'S RIGHT. THE KING IS HOLDING AN OPEN AIR COURT TO DEAL WITH ALL YOU *"MIRACLE WORKERS."* EVERY HACK CHARM PEDDLER FOR EIGHT KINGDOMS IS IN THIS TOWN. SOME OF 'EM HAVE BEEN IN LINE SINCE NOON YESTERDAY. NOW GO TO THE BACK!

AND QUIT BLOCKING THE ROAD!

SLAM!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, AAHZ?

THAT'S EASY. WE PACK UP OUR THINGS AND GO AROUND TO THE BACK. WEREN'T YOU LISTENING, KID?

WELL, WHAT *ARE* WE GOING TO DO ABOUT--

DON'T *DO* ANYTHING KID. WE CAN'T LET ANYONE SEE YOU DO MENIAL WORK IT'S BAD FOR THE *IMAGE!*

HE SAID THERE WERE OTHER MAGICIANS HERE!

YEAH. SO?

WELL, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

WHOMP!

I *TOLD* YOU ONCE. WE'RE GOING TO PACK OUR THINGS AND--

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE OTHER *MAGICIANS?*

DO? WE AREN'T GOING TO DO *ANYTHING.* YOU AREN'T UP TO *DUELING,* YOU KNOW!

AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE *PIKE*, WILL YA, KID ?

SAY, AAHZ--

WERE YOU EXPECTING OTHER MAGICIANS TO BE HERE ?

NOT REALLY. IT WAS A POSSIBILITY, OF COURSE, BUT I DIDN'T GIVE IT A VERY HIGH PROBABILITY RATING. STILL, IT'S NOT ALL THAT *SURPRISING*. A JOB LIKE THIS IS BOUND TO DRAW COMPETITION OUT OF THE *WOODWORK!*

OKAY, HOW DOES THIS CHANGE OUR PLANS?

IT DOESN'T. JUST DO YOUR THING LIKE I SHOWED YOU AND EVERTHING SHOULD COME OUT FINE.

BUT IF THE OTHER MAGICIANS--

LOOK, KID, JUST BECAUSE I KEEP TELLING YOU YOU'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE YOU'RE A *MASTER MAGICIAN* DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE A *HACK!* I WOULDN'T HAVE ENCOURAGED YOU TO SHOW UP FOR THIS INTERVIEW IF I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE GOOD ENOUGH TO LAND THE JOB!

REALLY, AAHZ ?

JUST REMEMBER, AS DIMENSIONS GO, *KLAH* ISN'T NOTED FOR ITS MAGICIANS. YOU'RE NO *MASTER*, BUT MASTERS ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN. I'M BETTING THAT COMPARED TO THE COMPETITION, YOU'LL LOOK LIKE A REAL *EXPERT!*

AAHZ... WHAT'S YOUR HONEST APPRAISAL OF MY CHANCES?

KID...

... YOU KNOW HOW YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING THAT I KEEP TEARING DOWN YOUR CONFIDENCE?

WELL, FOR BOTH OUR SAKES, DON'T PUSH TOO HARD FOR MY *HONEST* APPRAISAL!

OH NO!

BAG O TRICKS

HMMMMMMM...

DID YOU SEE THAT?

JAB!

SEE WHAT?

THE KING'S ADVISORS. A GENERAL AND A CHANCELLOR, UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS. DID YOU SEE THE GOLD MEDALLION ON THE GENERAL?

I SAW HIS *AXE!*

WHAT THE... HEY, IT'S RAINING!

WEATHER CONTROL! AND NOT BAD!

THE AMAZING DOUG HEN-EGG

E ZING EGG

- LAS VEGAS
- BEAVER FALLS

AAHZ, I--

WAIT A SEC, KID!

RUMBLE

FRZAK

WOW! WHAT A GREAT TRICK!

AAHZ! HE'S A BETTER MAGICIAN THAN I AM!

THINK SO?

YEAH, AND IF THEY TURN *HIM* DOWN, *I* HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE!

MAYBE YES, MAYBE NO. AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING *SPECIFIC*. WHO KNOWS? MAYBE YOU'RE *IT*.

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU: CUSHY JOBS DON'T ALWAYS GO TO THE MOST SKILLFUL. *IN FACT*, IT USUALLY GOES THE OTHER WAY.

SWOOSH! SWOOSH! SWOOSH!

YEAH. MAYBE I'LL GET LUCKY.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN LUCK.

NOW, WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED WATCHING THE KING'S ADVISORS?

THEY DON'T LIKE EACH OTHER.

RIGHT! NOW THAT MEANS YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO PLEASE THEM BOTH. YOU'LL HAVE TO PLAY UP TO ONE OF THEM--

--OR BETTER, *INSULT* ONE. THAT'LL GET THE OTHER ONE ON YOUR SIDE FASTER THAN ANYTHING. NOW, WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT ON YOUR SIDE?

THE *GENERAL!*

ANNNK!!

KID, YOU LOSE THE LUGGAGE AND THE WINNEBAGO! YOU WANT THE *CHANCELLOR!*

THE CHANCELLOR! DID YOU SEE THE SIZE OF THE AXE THE GENERAL IS CARRYING?

UH-HUH. DID YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GUY WHO INTERVIEWED BEFORE OLD *HEN-EGG* GOT HIS TURN?

AAHZ, REMEMBER ME? I'M *SKEEVE*. I'M THE ONE WHO *CAN'T* HEAR WHISPERS A MILE AWAY!

"THE LAST GUY DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO SHOW HIS STUFF! THE CHANCELLOR TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE CROWD HE BROUGHT WITH HIM AND ASKED HOW MANY WERE IN HIS RETINUE. 'EIGHT' THE MAN SAID. 'TOO MANY' SAYS THE CHANCELLOR AND THE POOR FOOL WAS DISMISSED IMMEDIATELY."

"SO?"

"SO THE CHANCELLOR IS THE ONE WATCHING THE *PURSE STRINGS*. WHAT'S MORE, HE HAS MORE *INFLUENCE* THAN THE GENERAL."

LOOK AT THESE SILLY WALLS. DO YOU THINK A MILITARY MAN WOULD LEAVE WALLS HALF FINISHED IF *HE* HAD THE FINAL SAY? SOMEBODY DECIDED TOO MUCH MONEY WAS BEING SPENT CONSTRUCTING THEM AND THE PROJECT WAS CANCELLED OR DELAYED. I'M BETTING THAT *SOMEBODY* WAS THE *CHANCELLOR.*

MAYBE THEY RAN OUT OF STONES.

C'MON, KID. FROM WHAT WE'VE SEEN SINCE WE CROSSED THE BORDER, THIS KINGDOM'S *PRINCIPAL CROP* IS *STONES!*

BUT THE GENERAL--

!

KID! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PIKE!

THAP

YOU!

YES, YOU! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT PIKE? IT BELONGS TO THE PALACE GUARDS!

GO ON UP THERE! I THINK YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE YOUR INTERVIEW, KID, AND GIVE IT YOUR BEST. KNOCK 'EM STIFF!

IT BEATS STANDING IN LINE!

SHOVE!

WELL? I ASKED YOU A QUESTION! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT PIKE? YOU'D BEST ANSWER BEFORE I GROW ANGRY!

SHLOOOP!

SNAP!

THIS PIKE?

I TOOK THIS PIKE FROM AN OVERLY *RUDE* SOLDIER. HE SAID HE WAS FOLLOWING *ORDERS*. WOULD THOGE ORDERS COME FROM *YOU*, BY ANY CHANCE?

I...*um*... I IGSUED ORDERS THAT MY MEN DEAL WITH STRANGERS IN AN EXPEDIENT FASHION.

I SAID NOTHING ABOUT THEM BEING LESS THAN *POLITE*.

IN THAT CASE, I RETURN THE PIKE TO YOU SO THAT YOU MIGHT GIVE IT BACK TO THE GUARD, ALONG WITH A CLARIFICATION OF YOUR ORDERS...

SCHLOOP!

KLANK

...AND HOPEFULLY ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO HANDLE THEIR *WEAPONS!*

SNERK
GIGGLE
SNICKER
SNORT

HAA-HAA-HAA-
EE-HEE-HEE-
HO-H
-H

WHO ARE YOU?

WHO'S ASKING?

THE MAN YOU ARE ADDRESSING IS *HUGH BADAXE*, COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL ARMIES OF POSSILTUM.

AND I AM *J.R. GRIMBLE*, FIRST ADVISOR TO HIS MAJESTY.

I AM THE MAGICIAN KNOWN AS *SKEEVE*. I HAVE COME IN RESPONSE TO A GRACIOUS INVITATION FROM HIS MOST NOBLE MAJESTY, *RODRICK THE FIFTH*.

I HAVE COME TO DETERMINE FOR *MYSELF* IF I SHOULD *CONSIDER* ACCEPTING A POSITION AT THE COURT OF POSSILTUM.

NOW, SUCH A POSITION REQUIRES *CONFIDENCE* ON BOTH SIDES. *I* MUST FEEL THAT I WILL BE AMPLY REWARDED FOR MY SERVICES, AND *HIS MAJESTY* MUST BE SATISFIED THAT MY SKILLS ARE WORTHY OF HIS SPONSORSHIP.

GO, KID, GO!

GOOD PEOPLE! THE GENEROSITY OF THE CROWN OF POSSILTUM IS KNOWN TO ALL. AND I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE HIS MAJESTY WILL REWARD HIS RETAINERS IN PROPORTION TO THEIR SERVICE TO HIM.

THEREFORE, ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS THAT I *SATISFY* HIS MAJESTY... AND HIS ADVISORS... THAT MY HUMBLE SKILLS WILL INDEED SUFFICE HIS NEEDS.

YOUR MAJESTY, MY POWERS ARE MANY AND VARIED. HOWEVER, THE ESSENCE OF POWER IS *CONTROL*. THEREFORE, REALIZING YOU ARE A BUSY MAN, RATHER THAN WASTE TIME WITH MERE COMMERCIAL *TRICKERIES* AND *MINOR* DEMONSTRATIONS SUCH AS WE ALREADY HAVE SEEN, I SHALL WEAVE BUT *THREE* SPELLS AND TRUST IN YOUR WISDOM TO PERCEIVE THE *DEPTHS* BEHIND THEM!

YONDER ARE MY PRIZED PAIR OF MATCHED UNICORNS. SHOULD YOUR MAJESTY BE SO KIND AS TO CHOOSE ONE OF THEM ?

UMMM... I CHOOSE THE ONE ON THE *LEFT*.

VERY WELL, YOUR MAJESTY. BY YOUR WORD SHALL *THAT* CREATURE BE SPARED. OBSERVE THE *OTHER* CLOSELY!

ALLA KAZAM SHAZAM! BIPPITY BOBBITY--

WALLA WALLA WASHINGTON!

GOO-GLEEP!

ZLING!

SLURP!

THE MISSHAPEN WRETCH IS MY APPRENTICE *AAHZ*. YOU MAY WONDER IF IT IS WITHIN HIS POWER TO STOP THE DRAGON SHOULD THE BEAST GROW ANGRY. IT IS *NOT!*

BUT IT IS WITHIN *MY* POWER!

NOW YOU KNOW THAT THE FORCES OF *DARKNESS* ARE NO STRANGERS TO *SKEEVE!*

GLEEP?

BOBBELTY GOOK! CRUMBS AND MARTYRS!

OOOGA BOOOGA!

AS A *DEMON*, MY APPRENTICE CAN SUPPRESS THE DRAGON IF NEED BE--NAY, *TEN DRAGONS!* SUCH IS MY POWER! YET POWER MUST BE TEMPERED WITH *GENTLENESS*-- GENTILITY, IF YOU WILL.

TO CONFUSE ONE'S ENEMIES AND RECEIVE ONE'S ALLIES, YOU NEED NO OPEN SHOW OF POWER OR MENACE!

FOR OCCASIONS SUCH AS THOSE, ONE'S POWERS CAN BE *MASKED* UNTIL ONE IS NO MORE CONSPICUOUS THAN--

--A STRIPLING!

AS YOU SEE, YOUR MAJESTY, MY POWERS ARE FAR FROM ORDINARY! THEY CAN MAKE THE GENTLE FEARSOME OR THE MIGHTY HARMLESS! THEY CAN DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES OR AMUSE YOUR COURT DEPENDING ON YOUR WHIMS!
SAY THE WORD, SPEAK YOUR *APPROVAL*, AND THE *POWERS OF SKEEVE* ARE *YOURS* TO COMMAND!

ROW ROW BARK BARK
WOOF WOOF ARF ARF
SNAP SNARL GROWL
BIT YIP YIP
YIPE ROW
OOF
P
P
ARF
IP
OF
BI
XF

SKEEVE! THAT THING YOU DID WITH THE *PIKE*. CAN YOU ALWAYS CONTROL WEAPONS SO EASILY?

CHILD'S PLAY, YOUR MAJESTY. I HESITATE EVEN TO *ACKNOWLEDGE* IT AS A POWER!

@#☠⚡!

WINK!

LET ALL HERE ASSEMBLED BEAR WITNESS! RODRICK THE FIFTH, KING OF POGSILTUM, DOES HEREBY COMMEND THE MAGICAL SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE OF ONE **SKEEVE** AND DOES FORMALLY NAME HIM MAGICIAN TO THE COURT OF POSSILTUM! LET ALL APPLAUD THE APPOINTMENT OF THIS MASTER MAGICIAN-- AND THEN DISPERSE!

LORD MAGICIAN, IF YOU WILL, MIGHT WE DISCUSS THE MATTER OF YOUR *WAGES?*

MY APPRENTICE HANDLES SUCH MATTERS. I PREFER NOT TO DISTRACT MYSELF WITH SUCH *MUNDANE* MATTERS!

ULP!

THAT CAN *WAIT*, GRIMBLE! THERE ARE MORE PRESSING MATTERS WHICH COMMAND OUR MAGICIAN'S *ATTENTION!*

YOU NEED ONLY *COMMAND*, YOUR MAJESTY!

FINE! THEN REPORT TO *GENERAL BADAXE* IMMEDIATELY FOR YOUR *BRIEFING!*

BRIEFING? ABOUT WHAT?

WHEW!

WHY, YOUR BRIEFING ABOUT THE *INVADING ARMY*, OF COURSE! THE ONE WHICH EVEN NOW APPROACHES OUR BORDERS! *WHY ELSE* WOULD WE *SUDDENLY* NEED A MAGICIAN?

ARMY!

"CUSHY JOB," HE SAID!

"CHANCE TO PRACTICE," HE SAID!

"PIECE OF CAKE," HE SAID!

SIMMER DOWN, KID! IT COULD BE WORSE!

I'M SUPPOSED TO STOP AN ARMY! ME! HOW COULD IT BE WORSE!

YOU COULD BE DOING IT WITHOUT ME!

WELL? WHAT AM I GOING TO DO, AAHZ?

SINCE YOU ASK, MY ADVICE WOULD BE NOT TO PANIC UNTIL WE GET THE WHOLE STORY. REMEMBER, THERE ARE ARMIES AND THERE ARE ARMIES. FOR ALL WE KNOW, THIS ONE MIGHT BE WEAK ENOUGH FOR US TO BEAT FAIR AND SQUARE.

AND IF IT ISN'T?

WE'LL BURN THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT. FIRST LET'S HEAR WHAT OLD BADAXE HAS TO SAY.

ARE THESE THE QUARTERS OF GENERAL BADAXE?

SCHLONK

ARE YOU THE MAGICIAN CALLED SKEEVE?

GRRRRRR...

THE KID ASKED YOU A QUESTION, SOLDIER! ***NOW,*** ARE YOU GOING TO ANSWER OR ARE YOU SO ***DUMB*** YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR YOU'RE ***GUARDING?***

YES! THESE ARE THE QUARTERS OF GENERAL BADAXE --SIR!

THE GENERAL LEFT WORD THAT YOU WERE TO GO RIGHT IN.

THANK YOU, GUARD!

AH! COME IN, GENTLEMEN! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU!

DO MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE. HELP YOURSELF TO THE WINE IF YOU--

SNAG!

GLUG GLUG GLUG

GLUG GLUG GLU

I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR MY RUDE BEHAVIOR DURING THE INTERVIEW--

BURP

GRIMBLE AND I HAVE DIFFERED IN OUR OPINIONS ON THE EXISTING SITUATION AND I'M AFRAID I TOOK IT OUT ON YOU. ORDINARILY, I WOULD HAVE *NOTHING* AGAINST MAGICIANS AS A GROUP, OR YOU SPECIFICALLY.

IT WAS AN EXTENSION OF OUR OLD ARGUMENT CONCERNING ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

WHEN NEWS REACHED US OF THE APPROACHING FORCE, MY ADVICE TO THE KING WAS TO STRENGTHEN OUR OWN ARMY IMMEDIATELY...

... SO THAT WE MIGHT ADEQUATELY PERFORM OUR SWORN DUTY OF *DEFENDING* THE REALM.

GRIMBLE'S ADVICE WAS TO INVEST THE MONEY *ELSEWHERE*--

-- SPECIFICALLY, IN A *MAGICIAN!*

ALL THAT'S WATER UNDER THE DRAWBRIDGE, GENERAL. WHAT ARE WE UP *AGAINST?*

THIS IS A MAP OF THE KINGDOM YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DEFEND -- *POSSILTUM.*

THIS LINE HERE TO THE NORTH OF OUR BORDER REPRESENTS THE *ADVANCING ARMY* YOU ARE TO DEAL WITH.

TOO BAD YOU COULDN'T GET IT TO *SCALE*. THE WAY YOU HAVE IT THERE, THE ENEMY'S FRONT IS *LONGER* THAN YOUR *BORDER*.

N
W
E
S
THAT'S DEFINITE

MANNY'S SQUARE
RONO ISLAND
DELAND
CLIFFS BUCKS
THUNDER ROAD

POINK
POINK
THEM
US
POSSUM TOM

THE DRAWING *IS* TO SCALE!!

REALLY, GENERAL, SURELY YOU'RE *OVERSTATING* THE CASE. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH FIGHTING MEN IN *ANY* KINGDOM TO FORM A FRONT *THAT* LONG!

MAGICIAN, I DIDN'T REACH MY CURRENT RANK BY *OVERSTATING* MILITARY SITUATIONS!

THE ARMY YOU ARE FACING IS ONE OF THE *MIGHTIEST* FORCES THE WORLD HAS *EVER* SEEN. IT'S THE STRIKING ARM OF A RAPIDLY GROWING EMPIRE FAR TO THE NORTH. THEY HAVE BEEN ADVANCING FOR *THREE YEARS*, ABSORBING SMALLER KINGDOMS AND *CRUSHING* ANY RESISTANCE!

BOBBY STREET
WHOA! LOOK IT ALL DEM TROOPS!
TOBACCO ROAD

ALL ABLE BODIED MEN OF CONQUERED LANDS ARE CONSCRIPTED FOR MILITARY SERVICE. THE ONLY REASON THEY ARE NOT ADVANCING *FASTER* IS THAT THEY POSSESS *MASSIVE WAR MACHINES* WHICH ARE EFFECTIVE BUT ARE SLOW TO TRANSPORT.

SIDNEY GREEN STREET
BAKER ST.
CHRIS CROSSING
POMMIE LANE
MORE BAD GUYS!
FINGER POINT
SPARE PARK PINK
(I DON'T THINK SO!!)

NOW TELL US THE *BAD* NEWS.

THE BAD NEWS IS THAT THEIR LEADER IS A STRATEGIST *WITHOUT PEER*. HE ROSE TO POWER TROUNCING FORCES *TRIPLE* THE SIZE OF HIS OWN NUMBERS, AND NOW THAT HE HAS A MASSIVE ARMY AT HIS COMMAND...

...HE IS VIRTUALLY *UNBEATABLE!*

MY PLAN WAS NOT TO TRY TO *CRUSH* THE ENEMY. BUT WE COULD HAVE MADE THEM *PAY* DEARLY ENOUGH FOR CROSSING OUR BORDER THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE TURNED ASIDE FOR WEAKER LANDS *EASIER* TO CONQUER!

YOU KNOW, BADAXE, THAT'S NOT A *BAD PLAN*. WORKING TOGETHER, WE MIGHT *STILL* PULL IT OFF! HOW MANY MEN CAN YOU GIVE US FOR SUPPORT?

NONE! I WILL NOT ASSIGN A SINGLE SOLDIER OF MINE TO SUPPORT YOUR CAMPAIGN!

PLURT!

THAT'S INSANE! HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO STOP AN ARMY LIKE THAT WITH JUST MAGIK?

I DON'T!

BUT IF WE FAIL, POSSILTUM FALLS!

LET ME CLARIFY MY POSITION: THERE IS *MORE* AT STAKE HERE THAN *ONE* KINGDOM.

IF *YOU* SUCCEED, IT WILL ESTABLISH THAT MAGIK IS MORE *EFFECTIVE* THAN MILITARY FORCES IN DEFENDING A KINGDOM. EVENTUALLY THAT COULD LEAD TO *ALL* ARMIES BEING DISBANDED IN PREFERENCE TO HIRING *MAGICIANS!*

I WILL HAVE *NO PART* IN ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT SUCH AS *THAT.* IF YOU WANT TO SHOW THAT MAGICIANS ARE *SUPERIOR* TO ARMIES, YOU WILL HAVE TO DO IT WITH *MAGIK* ALONE!

SHOULD YOU EMERGE VICTORIOUS, YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO *COLLECT* YOUR REWARD!

THE *KING* MAY RULE THE COURT, BUT WORD OF WHAT HAPPENS IN THE KINGDOM COMES TO HIM THROUGH *MY SOLDIERS.* THOSE SOLDIERS WILL BE POSTED ALONG YOUR RETURN PATH TO THE PALACE WITH ORDERS TO BRING BACK WORD OF YOUR *ACCIDENTAL DEMISE...*

EVEN IF THEY HAVE TO ARRANGE IT!!

WHAT!?

NEXT ISSUE: *IN BY 9, OUTNUMBERED BY 5!*

Write us about this issue: **Mythprints**, PO Box 787 Bethel CT 06801